THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN AMERICA

ACT 3

THE MAN WHO BOUGHT AMERICA: PART SIX

The Red Skull, with the help of megalomaniacal psychiatrist Dr. Faustus, manipulated Sharon Carter, former Agent 13 of S.H.I.E.L.D., into taking the life of Steve Rogers, the man who was Captain America. When it was revealed she was pregnant with Rogers' baby, she was taken prisoner by her enemies.

Cap's former partner, James "Bucky" Barnes, has agreed to don the mantle of Captain America and go after the Red Skull. He tails Gordon Wright, the Skull's Third Wing political shill set up to further the Skull's agenda...an agenda protected by the replacement Captain America of the 1950s, and threatened by the Skull's own daughter, Sin.

After Bucky confronts the imposter, the replacement Cap, shattered by the revelation that he's not the true Captain America, flees...unwittingly right back into the waiting hands of the Skull. And back on the Skull's base, Sharon fights for her life after she loses the baby in a brawl with Sin, while Bucky's partner, Falcon, and S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Black Widow race to save her.

Meanwhile, as Gordon Wright steps up to the podium on the night of the final presidential debate, Sin takes aim to destroy her father's plans and Bucky throws himself between a bullet and a betrayer...

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A BROAD DAYLIGHT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES...
SKAASH!
WHAT DID HE SAY?
MOVE, LARRY--TIME TO GO.
DESIGNED TO CAST THE RED SKULL'S SECRET CANDIDATE AS THE HERO OF THE DAY...
NOOO!
GET HIM! KILL THIS SON OF A @#$%&!
WRECKING PLANS LIKE THESE IS WHAT BEING CAPTAIN AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT.

THE SKULL'S DAUGHTER IS SLIPPERY...
NYAHH!
KRAKK
...AND HER BACKUP ARE WELL-TRAINED.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M FAILING... NOT TODAY.
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
THIS MUST BE HOW STEVE FELT. THIS UNIFORM...IT CARRIES A WEIGHT, BUT IT'S NOT A BURDEN...
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA

...IT'S A RESPONSIBILITY.
KA-WHAMM
NO...NO... WHAT DID I DO?
ROOF
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
EXIT
FATHER WILL HAVE MY EYES...
HE'LL KILL ME...I HAVE TO...HAVE TO...
...HAVE TO FIX IT... THEN HE'LL SEE...
MOVE! GET THESE CARS ROLLING OUT OF HERE--
GO! GO! GO!
YES...A CONTINGENCY PLAN...
...JUST LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME, FATHER...

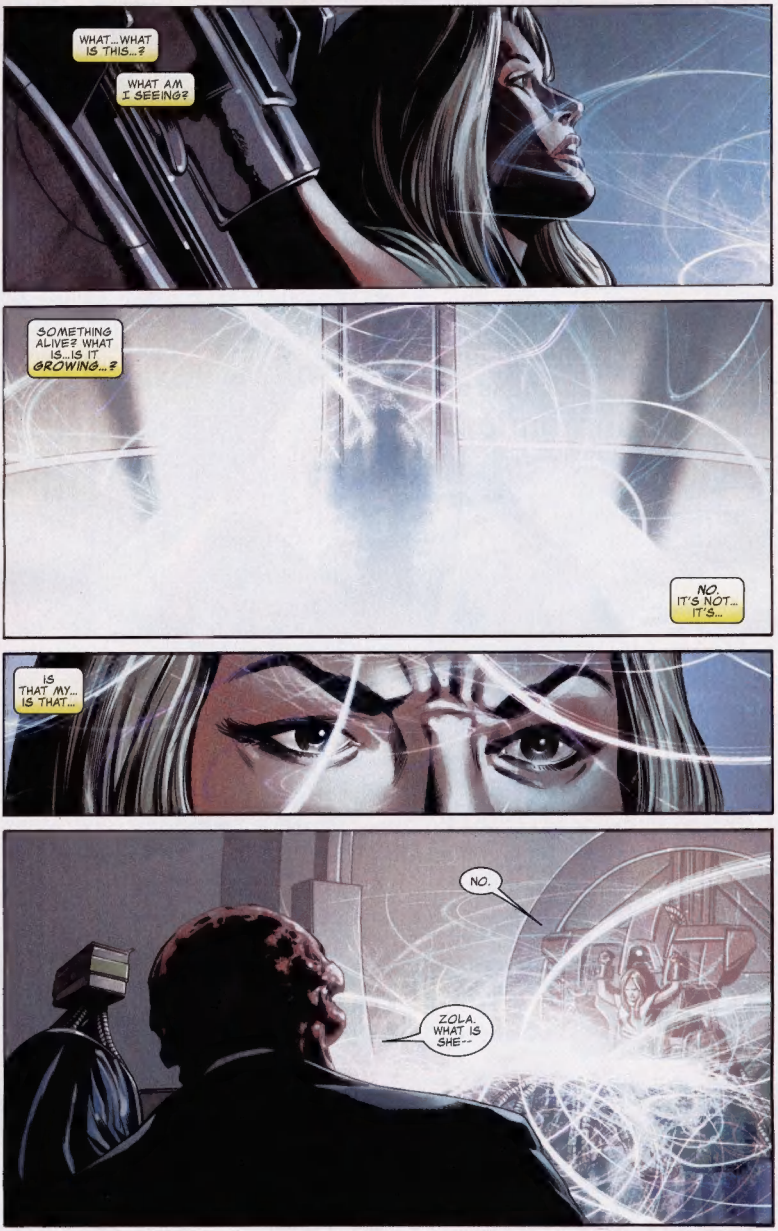
And At The Red Skull's Base...
NATASHA-- YOUR TWO O'CLOCK.
KRAK
BZZATT
THANKS, FALCON.
MUST'VE ACTIVATED THE SELF-DESTRUCT SEQUENCE... THIS PLACE AIN'T GONNA HOLD UP MUCH LONGER...
YOU GETTIN' A READING IN ALL THIS MESS?
YEAH... AGENT 13'S GPS SIGNAL IS DOWN HERE...
...LET'S JUST HOPE WE CAN GET TO HER BEFORE THE BOMBS...
KA-BOOM

THIS WILL HURT, GIRL.
WHAT...?
BZOW
UHNN--
HELP ME GET HER HOOKED IN.
YES, AND QUICKLY, ZOLA... WE HAVE LITTLE TIME TO SPARE.
THEN PERHAPS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST IF YOU HADN'T DECIDED TO BRING THE ENTIRE COMPLEX DOWN AROUND US.
OLD HABITS, DOCTOR...THEY DIE HARDER THAN I DO.
AND I DON'T INTEND TO BE TRAPPED BY MY ENEMIES...OR IN THIS BODY ANY LONGER...

NOW DO IT, DAMN YOU.
IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN, HERR SKULL.
WHAT...? WAIT. WHAT DID THEY...?
OW. NEEDLES?
OW.
SHE'S WAKING UP ALREADY!
IT DOESN'T MATTER. IT'S ALREADY BEEN LOCKED..
OR UNLOCKED... PERHAPS THAT'S A BETTER WORD.
WHAT ARE THESE MANIACS...NO...
WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO ME NOW?

KA-BOOOM
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING?!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!!
YOU CAN'T TREAT ME LIKE THIS!
I'M CAPTAIN AMERICA, DAMN YOU!
I'M
CAPTAIN AMERICA!

WASTING TOO MUCH TIME ON THE UNDERLINGS.
BUT I CAN'T TAKE THE RISK OF ANYONE CONFUSING THEM WITH ACTUAL SECURITY.
AAAHH!
WHERE IS SIN? SHE CAN'T JUST BE RUNNING.
WHAMM
THAT'S WAY TOO EASY...
...AND SHE'S WAY TOO PSYCHO.
AH, ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADES. AS DEVILISH AS ALWAYS, FATHER...
BUDDY-- MOVE THAT TRUCK!
OR WE'LL MOVE IT FOR YOU-- NOW!
911


WHAT...WHAT IS THIS...?
WHAT AM I SEEING?
SOMETHING ALIVE? WHAT IS...IS IT GROWING...?
NO. IT'S NOT... IT'S...
IS THAT MY... IS THAT...
NO.
ZOLA. WHAT IS SHE--

NO!
FRAZZAAATTZZZ
GET DOWN!
KA-FRATTTZZ
NO... WHAT DID SHE DO?
SHE BROKE THE CONNECTION, WHICH SHORTED-OUT THE DEVICE.
I COULD REPAIR IT, BUT THERE'S NO TIME. THEY'LL BE HERE SOON.

STUPID, STUPID WOMAN!
AHH!
PLEASE, HERR SKULL... THERE IS NO TIME FOR THIS...
MY PLANS ARE RUINED, YOU FOOL.
NOT RUINED, MERELY DELAYED FOR A TIME.
I HAVE NO WAY OUT OF THIS, ZOLA... NO WAY OUT OF LUKIN'S HEAD.
THAT ALSO IS NOT QUITE TRUE...
NOW, HURRY!

SHE'S HERE SOMEWHERE, BUCK...JUST FOLLOW YOUR GUT.
EXIT
WHAT DOES SHE WANT? WHAT'S HER AGENDA?
OH, GOD... NO.
NO!!
TOO LATE, CAPTAIN ASSHAT.
DEEET

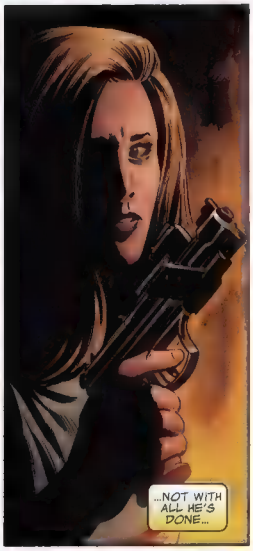
SHE'S NOT HERE, NATASHA. THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER.
HOLD ON... WAIT...

AH, DAMN IT.

A GPS TRACKER...BUT NO SHARON CARTER.
SO THEN, WHERE THE HELL IS SHE?

HOW LONG WAS I OUT...FIVE MINUTES? HAVE TO KEEP MOVING...
MOVE THROUGH THE PAIN...CAN'T LET HIM...

CAN'T LET THE RED SKULL GET AWAY...


...NOT WITH ALL HE'S DONE...

HURRY, WE HAVE NO TIME FOR YOUR--
WAIT A MOMENT. JUST LET ME...
...LET ME GET MY BEARINGS...
THE ENTIRE FACILITY IS IMPLODING. FIND YOUR SENSE OF URGENCY.
I WILL... I JUST...I CAN'T GET OVER IT...
YOU'RE A GENIUS, DOCTOR ZOLA...
YOU OVERSTATE THE OBVIOUS.
HA HA HA!
A GENIUS!
BLAMM

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
...BUT... BUT...BUT... I WAS...BUT... I...
OKAY...GOOD ENOUGH...
I'M DONE NOW...
OH, I AM AFRAID YOU HAVE NO CONCEPT, GIRL... OF HOW FUTILE... HOW UTTERLY FUTILE...

AAAIIEEEEEEE-
SKKRAAZZZZ
FASCIST FREAK... PSYCHO...
PLEASE TELL ME... YOU...YOU'RE...
...ONE OF...THE GOOD GUYS NOW...
...RIGHT...?

RIGHT--STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER DONE? NOT QUITE, BUT CLOSE.
PHWOOOOM
I HOPE STARK WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT THE IMPACT-RESISTANCE ON THIS SUIT...
KRA-KOOOM
UHNN--

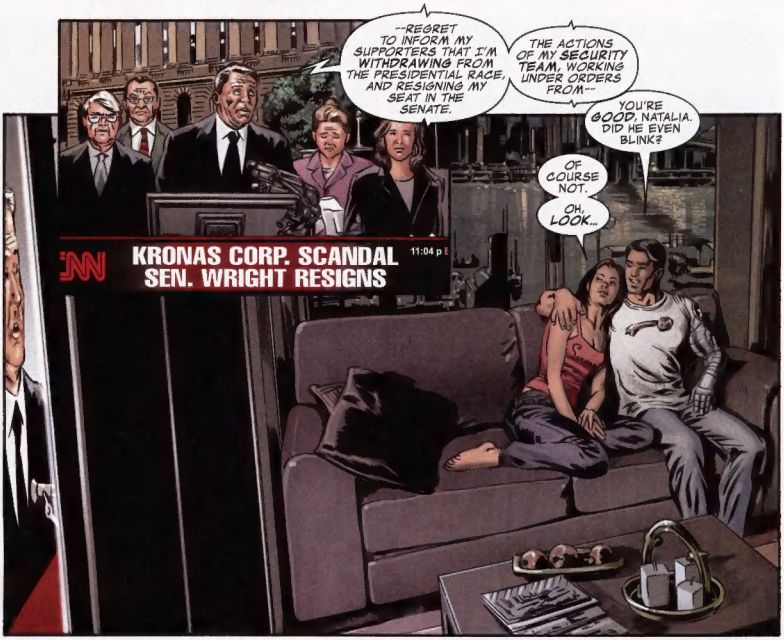
SKAASHH
ICE
30
OKAY... AT LEAST I SURVIVED...
...OW...
...EXACTLY ACCORDING TO MY HALF-ASSED PLAN...
AGENTS-- STAND CLEAR!
ON MY MARK!
...SORT OF.
UH...JUST HOLD ON A...A SECOND...
YELLOW DOG 2, REPORT?

SHOOTER IS DOWN, SIR.
REPEAT.. SHOOTER IS DOWN.
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE... WEAPONS DOWN.
WHAT...? WHAT'RE YOU...?
NICE WORK, CAP...
GOOD SAVE.
HEY, CAP--OVER HERE!
HEY, CAP!
WAY TO GO, CAP! YEAH!
HEY, CAP-- CAN WE GET A STATEMENT?!
--RUN THE CAPTAIN AMERICA BLOG--
--A PICTURE FOR MY WIFE, CAP?!
OVER HERE, CAP-- SMILE!
FOR A SECOND, I REMEMBER WHEN IT USED TO BE LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME. THE SOLDIERS CHEERING ON ME AND STEVE.
AND FOR A SECOND, IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT LONG AGO...

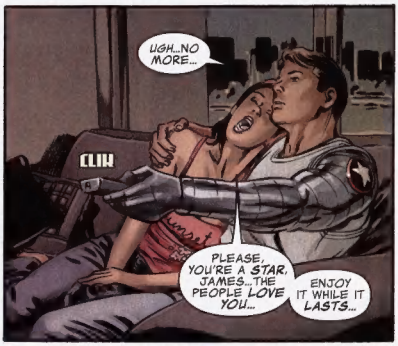
...FOR JUST A SECOND.
SHE STILL BREATHING?
YES, SHE'S TAKEN SOME PUNISHMENT... BUT SHE'S STILL WITH US.
LOOK AT THIS...ARNIM ZOLA AND THE RED SKULL?
SHARON DID ALL THIS?
I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HER...SHE'S ALWAYS IMPRESSED ME.
...SAM...?
EASY, SHARON... TAKE IT SLOW...
OH SAM... I DID IT...
I KILLED STEVE...I DIDN'T MEAN TO... BUT...
IT'S OKAY, SHARON...WE KNOW...
THEY WERE CONTROLLING YOU...BUT IT'S ALL OVER NOW... IT'S OVER...
...THE GOOD GUYS WON...

--AND MY PERSONAL PHYSICIAN HAS CONFIRMED IT...
Epilogue One
Two Days Later— The S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier
...SHARON HAD A MISCARRIAGE A LITTLE OVER A WEEK AGO.
THE SCAR ON HER STOMACH IS FROM THE ATTACK THAT CAUSED THE MISCARRIAGE.
AND SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER? SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER BEING PREGNANT?
IT'S INSANE, BUT...DR. FAUSTUS TURNED ON THE RED SKULL IN THE END...
MAYBE HE THOUGHT HE WAS HELPING HER?
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT HAPPENS NOW? SHE DESERVES TO KNOW...BUT I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO IT.
YEAH, I HEAR YOU. TELL YOU WHAT...
I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF SHARON FOR A WHILE...I THINK STEVE WOULD WANT THAT.
AND WHEN SHE'S STRONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THE TRUTH...I'LL TELL HER...
...BUT NOT TODAY.

Epilogue Two
--LISTEN TO ME CLOSELY, SENATOR, AND YOU MAY SURVIVE WITH YOUR PENSION.
BUT IT'S NOT FAIR...I WASN'T RESPONSIBLE.
HOW COULD I KNOW? HOW--
IF IT WERE JUST DOCTOR FAUSTUS USING YOU, THAT WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH...
...BUT YOU WERE DEEP IN THE POCKET OF KRONAS LONG BEFORE THAT, SENATOR WRIGHT...
BUT...I WASN'T...
YOU WERE RIPE FOR THE PICKING, IS WHAT YOU WERE.
SO YOU CAN EITHER RESIGN AND WITHDRAW FROM THE ELECTION... OR YOU CAN BE PUBLICLY BRANDED A TRAITOR...
...FOREVER LINKED TO A CORPORATION THAT WAS FRONTING DOMESTIC TERRORISM.
IT'S YOUR CHOICE.

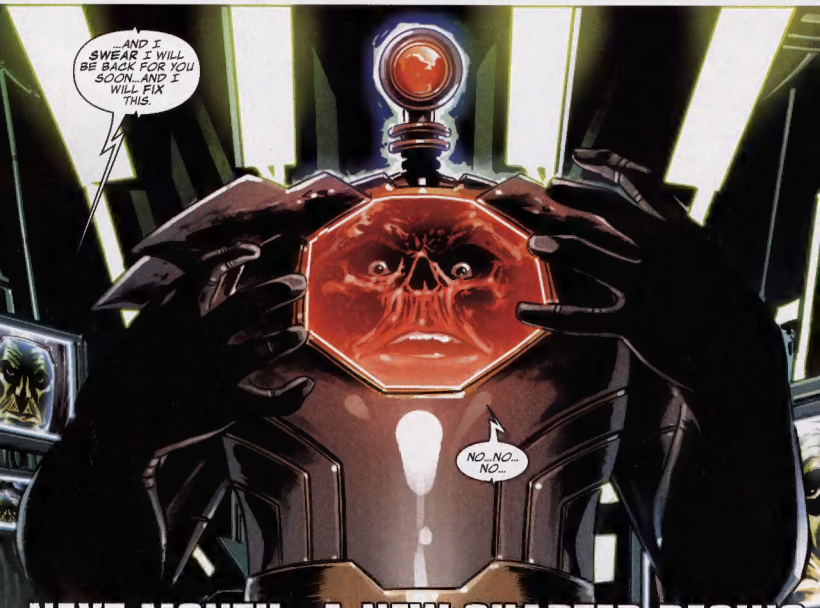

--REGRET TO INFORM MY SUPPORTERS THAT I'M WITHDRAWING FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE, AND RESIGNING MY SEAT IN THE SENATE.
THE ACTIONS OF MY SECURITY TEAM, WORKING UNDER ORDERS FROM--
YOU'RE GOOD, NATALIA. DID HE EVEN BLINK?
OF COURSE NOT.
OH, LOOK...
KRONAS CORP. SCANDAL
SEN. WRIGHT RESIGNS
11:04 p

...THEY'RE PLAYING IT AGAIN...
--AND WERE ALL SAVED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE NEW CAPTAIN AMERICA. OUR OVERNIGHT POLLING SHOWS--
NEW CAPTAIN AMERICA SAVES PRES. CANDIDATES
11:05 p


UGH...NO MORE...
CLIK
PLEASE, YOU'RE A STAR, JAMES...THE PEOPLE LOVE YOU...
ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS...

I'M TRYING, BUT...I JUST CAN'T STOP THINKING HOW CLOSE HE CAME. THE RED SKULL...
HE ALMOST HAD HIS OWN PRESIDENT.

I LIKE THIS...SEEING YOU LIKE THIS.
WHAT? FRUSTRATED?
STRUGGLING WITH IT...THIS CAPTAIN AMERICA THING.
I DON'T THINK IT'S EVER SUPPOSED TO BE EASY, JAMES.
NO...STEVE JUST MADE IT LOOK THAT WAY.
YOU WILL, TOO...
...SOMEDAY.
IT'S NOT EASY, YOU THINK, BEING CAPTAIN AMERICA...
CHEVROLET
PLAYBILL
JERSEY BOYS
WELCOME
IT NEVER WAS, BUT BACK IN YOUR DAY AT LEAST THE WORLD MADE SENSE...
NOT LIKE THIS PLACE...SO FAST, SO DECADENT, SO WRONG...
THIS ISN'T YOUR AMERICA... BUT IT WILL BE... SOMEDAY...



NEXT MONTH--A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS FOR THE NEW CAPTAIN AMERICA!